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MEDIA RELEASE

PAGE ONE OF THREE

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KB HOME EARNS AVAQMD'S AIRE AWARD

Builder Recognized for Bringing Solar Powered Housing to Lancaster

Lancaster – KB Home was recognized today by the Governing Board of the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District, as the national homebuilder was presented with the 2012/2013 Wm. “Pete” Knight Memorial AIRE (Achievement in Reducing Emissions) Award for designing the first affordable solar housing community in the City of Lancaster.

The AIRE award is bestowed annually to a local entity or individual that has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to protecting air quality within the AVAQMD’s boundaries, which encompass the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale. The award was accepted by KB Home/Southern California Division Executive Vice President Tom DiPrima during the local regulatory agency’s monthly Governing Board meeting in Lancaster.

KB Home received the AVAQMD’s highest honor for collaborating with China-based technology and manufacturing giant “Build Your Dreams” to design a solar-powered home prototype which combines energy efficiency measures and solar panels to achieve net-zero energy usage. Built to the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency’s ENERGY STAR guidelines, the homes are constructed with renewable energy-related materials, such as energy storage batteries and LED energy saving lights. Some models also include electric vehicle outlets which further reduce the homeowner’s “carbon footprint.”

PAGE TWO OF TWO

Between 2012 and 2013, 167 building permits were issued for solar on new home construction in Lancaster. 154 of these permits were issued to KB homes, totaling a potential 360kW of solar energy. To date, more than 200 solar-powered KB Homes have been built in Lancaster, which boasts more than 300 days of energy-generating sunshine per year.

In April 2013, the Lancaster City Council amended Residential Zoning for the city to include solar requirements for new developments of an average system size of 1 kW per house within a subdivision, effective January of 2014. KB Home's standard solar systems range from 1.8kW to 3.22 kW, well above the standard.

"By building Lancaster's first affordable solar energy housing community, KB Home has brought the city one step closer to realizing its goal of becoming the world's first net zero city, while helping to preserve the Antelope Valley's legendary air quality," commented AVAQMD Governing Board Chair and Lancaster Vice Mayor Marvin Crist.

According to USEPA, the photovoltaic systems installed at KB Home communities offset the production of more than 3,700 tons of carbon dioxide per year, the equivalent of removing 702 vehicles from the road annually. Moreover, the cost for powering a single-story, three to four bedroom house is reduced from approximately \$210 per month (the average combined gas and electrical bill for Lancaster residents) to about \$96 per month in KB Homes equipped with a standard 1.35 kW solar system.

The Wm. "Pete" Knight Memorial AIRE Award is presented each year in conjunction with National Pollution Prevention Week, which is observed the third week of September. In 2005, the AVAQMD's Governing Board renamed the District's highest honor after the late Senator Wm. "Pete" Knight, in recognition of his pivotal role in the creation of the AVAQMD as a separate, locally governed air agency.

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